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PATENT

Practitioner's Docket No.: 967_023

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of: Koichi Komoda

Ser. No.: 10/031,360

Art Unit: Not Assigned

Filed: January 18, 2002

Examiner: Not Assigned

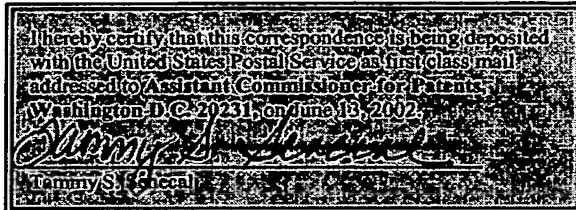
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For: PLAYBACK/RECORDING APPARATUS

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231



INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.56, the attention of the Patent and Trademark Office is hereby directed to the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of each of the references listed on Form PTO-1449 are attached.

The above information is presented so that the Patent and Trademark Office may, in the first instance, determine any materiality thereof to the claimed invention. See 37 C.F.R. §1.104(a) and §1.105 concerning the PTO duty to consider and use any such information. It is respectfully requested that the information be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application, and that these references be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed (1) no later than three months from the application's filing date or (2) before the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits (whichever is later), and therefore no certification under 37 C.F.R. §1.97(e) or fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p) is required.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirements under 37 CFR § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicants enclose herewith a copy of an English-language abstract.

37 CFR 1.98(a)(3)(ii) states that if no translation is submitted, the Examiner will consider the information in view of the concise explanation and insofar as it is understood on its face, e.g., drawings, chemical formulas, English language abstracts, in the same manner

that non-English language information in Office search files is considered by examiners in conducting searches. "The duty of candor does not require that the applicant translate every foreign reference, but only that the applicant refrain from submitting partial translations and concise explanations that it knows will misdirect the examiner's attention from the reference's relevant teaching." 204F.3d at 138, 54 USPQ2d at 1008.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0289.

Respectfully submitted,

WALL, MARJAMA & BILINSKI LLP



Peter J. Bilinski
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June 13, 2002

Date

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PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE

Form PTO 1449
US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**



Applicant **Koichi Komoda**

Filing Date **January 18, 2002**

Serial No. **10/031,360**

Group **Not Assigned**

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U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Exam. Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Sub Class	Filing Date
	AA	5,822,425	10/13/1998	Ezaki et al.			

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Sub Class	Translation	Abstract
	AB	EP 0 878 794 A2	11/18/1998	EP				
	AC	2000322826A	11/24/2000	JP				✓
	AD	2001014221A	01/19/2001	JP				✓
	AE	2001022647A	01/26/2001	JP				✓
	AF	9-130766	10/13/1998	JP				✓
	AG	10-322648	11/18/1998	JP				✓

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages Etc.)

Examiner	Date Considered
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EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.